

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 9149

SEOUL FOR S/S; PARIS FOR ASST. SECY ENDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEC

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION REACTION TO KISSINGER AND SIMON
SPEECHES

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: INNTIAL EC COMMISSION REACTIONS TO THE ENERGY
SPEECHES BY SECRETARIES KISSINGER AND SIMON HAVE BEEN LOW KEY
BUT POSITIVE IN PUBLIC AND, ON THE WHOLE, STRONGLY FAVORABLE
IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH US. THE FULL COMMISSION DISCUSSED
THE U.S. INITIATIVES ON NOVEMBER 20. THE EC COMMISSION PRESS
SPOKESMAN ON NOVEMBER 21 ISSUED A STATEMENT NOTING POSITIVE
ELEMENTS IN THE SECRETARY'S APEECH, INCLUDING REFERENCES TO
THE NEED FOR A PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE AND AGAIN EMPHASIZING
THE NEED FOR COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY IN ENERGY AND FINANCIAL
AFFAIRS. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS, THE EC COMMISSION AND THE COMMITTEE
OF PERMREPS HAVE BEEN EXAMINING THE U.S. ENERGY INITIATIVES
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IN VARIOUS CONTEXTS INCLUDING PREPARATIONS FOR THE EC-NINE

SUMMIT MEETING. THE FULL COMMISSION HELD A DISCUSSION ON NOVEMBER 20. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT CERTAINLY A STRONG MAJORITY IN THE COMMISSION TAKES A VERY FAVORABLE VIEW OF THE SPEECHES. AT A SMALL SOCIAL GATHERING EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES TOLD US AND THE OTHERS PRESENT THAT HE VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTS SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION. HE SAID HIS MAIN FEAR IS THAT TIME WILL RUN OUT FOR THE WEST AND THE COMMUNITY IN TRYING TO PUT INTO PLACE A STRONG SYSTEM TO DEAL WITH THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE ENERGY CRISIS. SOAMES BELIEVES THAT ONLY A SMALL MINORITY OF UNREALISTIC VOICES IN THE COMMUNITY RESENT THE U.S. HAVING TAKEN THE INITIATIVE WHEN THE COMMUNITY IS SO MANIFESTLY NOT IN A POSITION TO DO SO.

3. EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SIMONET'S OFFICE TELLS US THAT SIMONET AND COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI HAVE DISCUSSED THE SPEECHES AND THAT THEIR COMMON REACTION IS ALSO POSITIVE. SIMONET, IN A EUROPEAN MOVEMENT DEBATE ON NOVEMBER 18, PARTICULARLY STRESSED THE NEED FOR CONSUMER SOLIDARITY. HE SAID A PREMATURE DIALOGUE WITH THE PRODUCERS WOULD SOON LEAD TO DEADLOCK.

4. OUR TALKS WITH SENIOR COMMISSION OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH MONETARY AFFAIRS SHOW THAT THEY, TOO, ARE GENERALLY REACTING VERY FAVORABLY TO THE RECYCLING PROPOSALS. WHILE THEY POINT OUT THAT THE COMMISSION HAS FAR LESS LEVERAGE WITH THE MEMBER STATES IN THE MONETARY FIELD THAN IN SOME OTHER FIELDS, THEIR FIRST REACTIONS SUGGEST THAT IN THE VARIOUS COMMUNITY CAUCUSES THE COMMISSION IS APT TO DO WHAT IT CAN TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR THE GENERAL APPROACH WE FAVOR. SEVERAL OF OUR SOURCES DID ENTER CAVEATS ABOUT WANTING TO TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT THE DETAILS AS THE NEGOTIATIONS UNFOLD.

5. DESPITE STRONGLY FAVORABLE INITIAL REACTIONS IN PRIVATE, THE COMMUNITY'S PUBLIC POSTURE HAS PREDICTABLY BEEN ONE OF RESTRAINT TO AVOID POSSIBLE OFFENSE TO PARIS AND BECAUSE OF CONTINUING SENSITIVITY ABOUT EUROPE'S RELATIONS WITH THE ARABS. COMMUNITY OFFICIALS WANT TO SEE WHETHER THERE ARE ELEMENTS IN THE U.S. INITIATIVES THAT CAN BE USED IN MOVING FORWARD WITH TWO MAJOR CONCERNS IN THE COMMUNITY: (A) BUILDING A BRIDGE
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BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE EIGHT AND (B) MAKING PROGRESS TOWARDS A COMMON EC ENERGY POLICY. THERE REMAINS A WIDESPREAD VIEW IN THE COMMUNITY THAT MANY RESPONSIBLE FRENCHMEN WOULD LIKE TO GET BACK IN LINE WITH THE OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES ON THIS RANGE OF ISSUES THEREBY RESTORING COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY. THIS VIEW CONTINUES TO CONDITION MOST LOCAL REACTIONS ON ENERGY-RELATED ISSUES.

6. IN KEEPING WITH THE FOREGOING ELEMENTS, THE EC COMMISSION PRESS SPOKESMAN ON NOVEMBER 21 READ A STATEMENT INDICATING THAT THE COMMISSION HAD NOTED POSITIVE ELEMENTS IN THE NOVEMBER 15 KISSINGER SPEECH, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO A DIALOGUE WITH PRODUCING COUNTRIES. HE RECALLED THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REPEATEDLY POINTED TO THE NEED FOR COOPERATION AMONG INDUSTRIAL CONSUMERS, LDC CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS, AND HAS ALSO STRESSED THE NEED FOR A COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY. HE SAID THE COMMISSION CONFIRMS THAT THE NEED FOR COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER IN ENERGY AND PARTICULARLY IN MONETARY AFFAIRS.MYERSON

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